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Do You Know?

the following concise and interesting facts about your city, its municipal utilities and government?

COMPILED AND PUBLISHED BY THE
MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEES CLUB

16

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Foreword

426500

The work of the Municipal Employees Club in publishing this little booklet about our City Government and Utilities is most commendable. The Club, ever since its inception, has demonstrated its civic enterprise in many ways—in the recent purchase and donation to the City of a bus to haul children to the Municipal Beach; in the generous contributions of service and funds to the Red Cross and relief organizations, and in other public welfare activities.

The project of the Club in compiling and presenting the facts in this booklet is naturally pleasing to me for the information reflects many of the achievements of the present administration, achievements which the employees have helped bring about by their cooperative spirit and by doing well their individual jobs.

But more important than my personal gratification in the accomplishments mentioned, is the worth-while public service rendered by the Employees Club in placing these facts in the hands of the citizens who employ all of us who are on the public payroll. This practice is likewise in harmony with the policy I have maintained throughout my administration of keeping the public informed at all times. The protection and the continuance of good local government economically administered is dependent upon a knowledge of that government by the citizens themselves. While the facts presented herein are condensed and not all-inclusive, I am sure they will be helpful in informing you of some of the ways in which your government, in its various departments, has served you during the past four years.

Yours sincerely,

N. H. Baals

Mayor of Fort Wayne.

Do You Know?

GENERAL

—that against a Civil City deficit of $39,849.43 appearing when office was assumed January 1, 1935, there exists as of January 1, 1938 a surplus of $143,392.67?

—that in July, 1936, Mayor Baals signed the City Council Appropriation Ordinance authorizing the expenditure of $105,000 for the opening and improving of Clinton Street?

—that this money was raised without directly increasing taxes?

—that Mayor Baals has encouraged the co-operation of volunteer groups of citizens in helping solve the major problems of the city, naming such civic committees on the Clinton Street project, the Nickel Plate project, the campaign against venereal diseases, the Sewer project, recreational facilities, unemployment aid, etc.

—that the solution of the Sewage Project is now a reality. The bonds have recently been sold, and the engineers are arranging the work for early completion.

—that for the first time in the history of Fort Wayne a complete inventory of all property belonging to the city and municipal utilities has been taken; that every item, ranging from small equipment to large buildings has been listed?

Do You Know?

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Low Taxes—Low Debt

—that never in the history of Fort Wayne has its financial condition been in better shape than today as reflected in the combined factors of careful budgeting, low tax rate, economical expenditures, low per capita bonded debt, no defaults or unpaid bills, an absolute balanced budget and a sound but not excessive surplus, indicating tax rates in line with expenditure needs?

—that a Research Department, inaugurated by Mayor Baals, compiled facts and figures bearing on all phases of local government operation of interest to every taxpayer, is open to the general public?

—that these facts cover a detailed analysis over several years and are kept up-to-date by current reports issued by the City Comptroller and Director of the Budget?

—that for the first time since the appointment of the Tax Adjustment Board, the City in 1935 was able to submit a budget that year which was approved by the Board without change?

Recreational Facilities Improved

—that through the instigation of Mayor Baals, the Municipal Bathing Beach was established to provide bathing facilities for the thousands of boys and girls in Fort Wayne who do not have the good fortune to spend their summer vacation at various lakes away from the city.

Do You Know?

MUNICIPAL UTILITIES

—that one of the noteworthy accomplishments of the Baals improvement program of the municipal utilities was the consolidation of the administrative offices of both the light and water utilities under one roof, in accord with the plan outlined by Mayor Baals?

—that formerly light bills were distributed to the consumers at one time during the month and water at another?

—that for the past three years both bills are distributed at the same time by the billpassers?

—that this consolidation enables patrons to pay both their light and water bills at the same time and place each month, affording greater convenience to the light and water consumers?

—that in accord with the request of Mayor Baals, the utilities each year now publish a detailed statement covering the fiscal and financial affairs of the preceding 12 months?

—that in October, 1935, Fort Wayne was declared the first city in the state to comply fully with the State Board of Public Health demands regarding city water supply?

Excellent Financial Record

—that our utility plants from which the State has attempted to collect thousands of dollars of taxes, contributed free service during 1937, valued at

Do You Know?

$208,735, which in the past three years has amounted to $656,034?

—that this annual contribution to the City reduced our civil city tax levy 14.8 cents on every $100 of assessed valuation or a 20% cut in every taxpayers' bill?

—that without this contribution in the past three years, the Civil City tax rate would not have averaged 62.5 cents but would have averaged approximately 77.3 cents?

—that the gross revenues from the light plant with a 5c rate in 1934 were $994,137.11; that with a 20% reduction in rate arising from the new 4c rate, the gross revenues in 1937 were $1,152,113.72, or a 16% increase in gross revenues in 1937 over 1934, notwithstanding a 20% reduction in rates, so that the improvement in gross revenues actually reflect an improvement of approximately 30%?

—that because of this splendid record Mayor Baals asked for a reduction in the light rate from 4c to 3½c, making a saving to the consumers of $75,000.00 annually?

—that Water Works bonds outstanding totaled $2,199,000.00 January 1, 1935, and this total has been reduced $313,000, leaving a balance of $1,886,000?

—that a review of the three years operating experience of the light and water plants reflects that the cash balance on January 1, 1935 was $101,939.55, while on January 1, 1938 it was $271,443.45, or an increase of $169,503.90?

Do You Know?

Improved Service—More Customers

—that besides this improvement in cash position, capital additions of $946,174.16 have been made to the light plant by adding new sub-stations at Three Rivers Park and Lafayette Street, and the rebuilding of the stations at Phenie and Dubois Streets, placing cables in underground conduits in the downtown section, construction of dual bus structures in the main light plant and many other improvements?

—that in January 1, 1935, there were 22,494 light meters in service and on January 1, 1938, there were 25,898 meters in service, a three-year increase of 3,404?

—that Three Rivers Sub-station, located at Three Rivers Park, adjoining the Filtration Plant in many respects is the most important unit of the City Light distribution rebuilding program and was built under this administration?

—that the territory served by the Three Rivers Substation is largely downtown and the most densely loaded area of any of the four substations?

—that the completion of the Lafayette Street Substation, Three Rivers Substation, the rebuilding of the Phenie and Dubois Substations, under this administration, make the City Light and Power Utility among the most efficient and most modernly equipped in the United States?

—that City Light, taking advantage of the removal of the street car tracks from Clinton Street, changed its overhead distribution system to underground in a large area of the downtown sections?

Do You Know?

—that on July 10, 1937, City Light started cutting over to 4,000 volts on its distribution system?

Skilled Engineers—Trained Personnel

—that the Engineering Department of the City Light and Water Utilities, comprising a personnel of highly skilled and trained engineers, was organized by Mayor Baals in 1935?

—that with the utilities' own engineering department performing this service, the engineering fee was saved for the City. If the expenditures of the engineering department were deducted, which totaled approximately $15,000, there would still be a net saving of $30,500?

—that the building at Superior and Calhoun Streets belonging to the City and long remaining idle, was pressed into use for the storage of City Light and Water Works material that formerly was allowed to remain outdoors exposed to the weather?

—that the 379 employees of the Utilities worked 873,600 man hours with only 75 accidents during 1937, in which no fatalities were caused. Only one was classed as a serious mishap. Only 16 auto accidents were reported. Only 22 were lost-time mishaps and total costs for both personal injury and property damage accidents were $1,740.81?

—that Fort Wayne, due to City Light reductions, has the lowest electric rate in Indiana?

—that as a result of the city administration's successful fight before the Indiana Public Service Commission to win lower natural gas rates, the small consumers in FortWayne enjoy a rate substantially lower than they would have otherwise?

Do You Know?

BOARD OF WORKS

—that in 1937 the special levy for flood prevention and river bank improvement was increased from ONE MILL to ONE CENT and that this has made possible river beautification and adequate dike repair?

—that 4.38 miles of new, sanitary sewers are under construction; that 1.82 miles were finished in 1937; and that 1.47 miles will be started soon?

—that there are 202.5 miles of sewer in the Fort Wayne Sewer System and that in the contemplated new sewer project all of this will be utilized?

—that the retaining walls, guard rails, curbs and sidewalks were repaired at Calhoun, Broadway, Osage and State St. Elevations in 1937?

—that a special levy was placed in the 1937 budget for North Side Track Elevation; that final plans and specifications by the Nickel Plate Railroad for the elevation of its tracks have been ordered; that the organization of the Nickel Plate Track Elevation Association, a permanent civic organization, has been formed to work with the city administration in pushing plans for the speedy solution of the Nickel Plate project?

Splendid Improvement and Maintenance Record

—that all steel bridges have been repainted?

—that 8.14 miles of streets were graded and graveled in 1937?

Do You Know?

—that although the State took over the maintenance of—

All of Washington from Maumee West;

All of Jefferson Street;

All of Maumee Avenue;

Goshen Avenue west of Sherman Street; Sherman Street; VanBuren Street to Jefferson Street;

Rudisill Boulevard from Clinton Street to Broadway; Broadway to Oakdale; Oakdale (Bluffton Rd.)

All of Clinton Street;

Anthony Boulevard from Maumee Avenue to Crescent Avenue; Crescent Avenue to city limits;

there remains 2,740,662 square yards of asphalt pavement to be maintained by the city and that 592,895 pounds of asphalt have been placed on city streets the first three months of this year?

—that the City has started the project of relaying of brick streets?

—the past year the city has purchased two new sweepers?

—that the total sweeper cost, including labor is 82c per mile and the total truck cost, including labor is 52c per mile?

Do You Know?

—that the total cost of cleaning by hand, which is used in the spring and fall when dirt and leaves are too heavy to be picked up by the sweeper, is $6.69 per mile?

—that the average cleaning by hand is 17 curb miles per day and by sweeper 20 curb miles per day?

Asphalt Plant and Laboratory

—that the Asphalt Plant and Laboratory are operated by the City of Fort Wayne as one (1) unit or department under the directions of the Board of Public Works?

—that the City installed a complete laboratory for the testing and analysis of asphalts, portland cement, concrete, brick, sand, gravel, limestone and mortars?

—that the City does NOT barricade patches when making repairs to asphalt pavements, the "Motorist always has the right-of-way"?

—that Fort Wayne's asphalt patching cost $34,983.26 on 1,949,809 square yards of paving in 1929?

Costs Decrease

—that Fort Wayne's asphalt patching cost $23,700.00 on 2,835,829 square yards of asphalt paving in 1937? That the net cost per square yard of pavement repaired was only .0059 mills?

—that the average annual expenditure of the asphalt plant for 1929 to 1934, inclusive, was $28,355.52; that the average annual expenditure for 1935, 1936 and 1937 was $23,943.06?

Do You Know?

—that the construction materials laboratory makes over 1,000 tests and analysis on construction materials and mixtures per year?

—that the asphalt plant is operated on an average of 240 days each year? Patching is done winter and summer?

—that the City paving specifications demand quality concrete, with strengths of 2,500 pounds per square inch for all walks, drives, curbs and walls, and 3,000 pounds per square inch for all alley and street paving and that penalties are applied or the work rejected if specification are NOT FULLY MET?

—that the asphalt department has placed signs on each repair truck giving the exact AGE OF THE PAVEMENT BEING REPAIRED for the information of the Public and Taxpayer?

—that all laboratory equipment is in accordance with the U. S. Bureau of Standards for construction material testing?

Modern Methods, Quality Materials

—that the asphalt department leaves no unsightly equipment on the streets over night during street repair periods?

—that the laboratory has since 1930 tested approximately 5,000 portland cement concrete cylinders and cores, or 75 tons of concrete for testing purposes?

—that the laboratory operates a core drilling machine to remove test specimens from all alley and street pavements 7 and 28 days after their completion?

Do You Know?

—that the Board of Public Works demands only quality materials, regardless of contractor or material producer, on all new sidewalk, driveway, alley and street construction?

—that the Administration of Mayor Harry W. Baals has established the plan of testing of ALL MATERIALS used in Public Works under the direction of the Board of Works?

—that the asphalt plant uses modern methods in making asphalt repair to pavements and controls all mixtures in accordance with the requirements of paving foundations, traffic, and climatic temperatures?

Department of Building

that the income of the Department of Building thru fees exceeded the expenditures by $15,582.65 for the years 1935, 1936, 1937 in contrast to a loss of $13,604.31 for 1932, 1933 and 1934?

BOARD OF PUBLIC SAFETY

—that all police squad cars now carry a patrolman's silver badge painted on each door in large size, on which appears in black letters, "Fort Wayne Police"?

—that these distinctive markings will advertise the presence of police squad cars in the future and will also help to slow up speeding motorists?

—that more than 100 policemen have passed Red Cross examinations, qualifying the officers to provide first aid at accidents?

Do You Know?

—that the officers were taught how to check severe bleeding, treatment for shock and burns, splint fractures, apply artificial respiration and other emergency measures in saving lives?

—that improved efficiency in the Fort Wayne Police Department during the last several years has been brought about by officers' training schools, first-aid courses, better discipline, and evident alertness are among the things which may be adduced to support the idea that there has been such improved efficiency?

—that through the instructions and examinations passed by members of the Police Department in the Police School, the police officers have displayed an interest in keeping crime in their district to a minimum?

—that this is performing a most valuable service, although that service may not be as spectacular as arresting the criminal after he has committed a crime?

—that a Police School was established early in 1936, providing for the study of the most effective methods of crime prevention?

—that the following subjects have been completed by all members of the Police School: 1. Criminal Law; 2. First Aid; 3. Juvenile Delinquency; 4. Cooperation and Courtesy in Dealing with the Public; 5. Deportment; 6. Instructions as to Interrogation of Witnesses; 7. Instructions Pertaining to Officers Testifying on the Witness Stand?

—that a showup room has been established in the Police Department to assist the Police in a more

accurate showup of the criminal for identification purposes?

Improved Traffic and Safety Program

—that the consolidated signal system of the Fire and Police Departments now under one roof in the central fire station saves much time formerly wasted in relaying and duplicating calls under the old plan?

—that for the first time in the history of the department, the Police Department maintains a separate ambulance for emergency runs and a patrol to transport prisoners?

—that the creation of a 24-hour-a-day accident investigation service by the Board of Safety and under the direction of the Traffic Lieutenant, has provided a most efficient service to the public in making extensive investigations at the scene of the accident and assisting in getting the injured to the hospital?

—that an adequate Police Traffice Bureau, consisting of a personnel of 14 officers under the direction of the Traffic Lieutenant, has been established to assist in traffic law enforcement?

—that records show, since the elimination of all amber lights, a substantial decrease in the number of accidents at street intersections controlled by traffic lights?

—that through the co-operation extended Mayor Baals by the Fort Wayne Engineers' Club, a plan

was submitted to work out the congested traffic problem in this city?

—that an accurate record of all accidents and traffic violation arrests are kept by a new system inaugurated by the Board of Public Safety under the direction of Mayor Baals?

—that traffic has been made safer by Traffic Day in Court; Standard Accident Reporting; Adequate Police Traffic Bureau; Well-marked Police Cars; Thorough Accident Investigation; Selective Enforcement?

—that in September, 1935, the wholesale market was removed from Clinton Street to the City Light property near the City Scales? This removal has proven beneficial to both the seller and buyer.

Savings Made

—that the Board of Safety built in its own shop and now has ready for service the largest pumper in the Fire Department at a saving of more than $6,000?

—that the Board of Safety built in its own shop the new squad car that took the place of the old chemical at No. 3 Engine House at a saving of $4,000?

—that two-way radios are being installed in police squad cars aiding the police to keep in direct touch with the central radio police station; that this system was built by the Signal Department, saving the city $400 per set or total of approximately $2,500?

Do You Know?

BOARD OF PUBLIC HEALTH

—that no contamination of the city water supply from outside sources is now possible because cross connections between private wells and the city water supply have been removed?

—that the city water supply for the first time in the history of Fort Wayne meets the standards of the United States Public Health Service?

—that Typhoid deaths, which previously had made Fort Wayne, from the typhoid standpoint, one of the worst cities in the northern half of the United States, have been stopped, and that Fort Wayne now enjoys an excellent record?

—that diphtheria has been virtually banished, where previously we were one of the worst, now we are one of the best cities?

—that the seven thousand parochial school children were formerly supervised by three physicians who were on call, while the public school children had sufficient physicians to visit each school each day; that now the parochial schools have five physicians who visit each school each day, without any increased cost?

—that through public health nurses and letters, the Health Department keeps in touch with every newborn child until he or she is ready to start to school?

—that throughout the period of this administration the public has been kept informed about contagious diseases present, and information has been given on

Do You Know?

how to avoid contracting such diseases as typhoid and rabbit fever?

—that the Isolation Hospital was previously managed by a man and his wife, neither of whom had any medical training; that now patients are carefully cared for by two trained nurses?

—that the Venereal Clinic was formerly supervised by a nurse; that now a full-time physician is in charge?

—that the campaign against venereal diseases, started by Mayor Baals, is being carried on with increased momentum, and that national recognition has been given the League for its fine work?

—that probably no city in the country is more health conscious and the people more co-operative than in Fort Wayne?

—that a healthful city is important from a business standpoint for neither persons nor up-to-date industries are attracted to an unhealthful community?

—that contagious diseases are expensive to the taxpayers to say nothing of the physical and mental suffering caused; that $82,000 of the taxpayers money has been used in years past in the settlement of typhoid claims and that $65,000 of that amount is bonded and that the taxpayers are still paying interest on these bonds?

—that from a business viewpoint, as well as from the physical viewpoint, Fort Wayne's excellent health record today pays dividends?

Do You Know?

BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS

—that each citizen is co-owner of 840 acres of park land?

—that there are 37 parks in all, with Foster Park the largest, comprising 251 acres and the smallest comprising ½ acre each, namely, Old Fort Park, Orff Park and Albert R. Hirons Park?

—that Foster Park Golf Course with its 127 acres of fine fairways and intriguing "rough" was the scene last year for nearly 27,000 games?

—that in West Swinney Park's 40 acres the Japanese Garden is the central attraction; fifty car loads of lime stone were used in the rock construction and all of this material was taken from the foundations of razed buildings with no cost to the taxpayer?

—that Lakeside Park can possibly be called the most beautiful of all our parks for it is there we find the nationally known "Sunken Gardens"?

—that the City Park system equips and maintains 14 supervised playgrounds, 65 tennis courts, 5 hard ball diamonds, 22 soft ball diamonds, 57 horse-shoe courts and two swimming pools?

—that in addition to the parks and playgrounds, the City Park system maintains and cares for nearly five miles of central park strips, some of which are more than 250 feet wide, and the 65,000 trees that are planted between the curbs and the sidewalks?

Do You Know?

—that the park system personnel consists of a Board of four men who are responsible to the citizens of Fort Wayne for the carrying on of this work and who serve on this Board without compensation? A superintendent, a secretary, one office clerk and an average of 60 skilled and unskilled laborers complete the staff?

Second to None

—that the Fort Wayne parks are second to none in other cities of her size and they belong to you—use them fully, but protect them as your own; share them with your neighbor and take from them the happiness and pleasure they have to give?

—that the following parks have been added to the Park System during the past three years: McMillen, comprising an acreage of 74 acres, and the Fairfield Playground (formerly Packard site) with 4 acres?

—that a new, hard-surfaced drive in Foster Park, extending through most the tract, was completed the past year?

—that Mayor Baals appointed a Civic Recreational Committee made up of representative citizens interested in recreation, sports and youth character training work, which will serve without compensation and which will work under the authority of the Board of Park Commissioners to make surveys of park recreational facilities, to suggest recreational needs of the various parks and to undertake volunteer sponsorship of a broader program of recreational sport activities?

Do You Know?

—that the Park Commissioners have been operating on an income of approximately half of what was used in 1931 and prior years? In 1933, the Park Board appropriation was reduced to a little over $58,000, and in 1934 to about $66,000, whereas the Board received almost $183,000 in 1930?

—that the Park Commissioners by the strictest economy, are operating on a 50 per cent income basis, compared to the year of 1933, and prior thereto, despite the fact that additional parks have been acquired and are now being maintained?

BOARD OF AVIATION COMMISSIONERS

—that Fort Wayne's municipal airport has been improved during 1935, 1936 and 1937 with electric boundary lights; with the completion of the paved runway system; clearing the approaches to the runways; installation of radio broadcast and radio range; the establishment of regularly scheduled air-mail, passenger and express service?

—that all this was accomplished without an increased airport budget?

—that the one cent levy needed to defray yearly expenses at the field raises approximately $15,000; that to this is added the revenues paid for use of the airport to bring the total income up sufficiently to defray all expenditures for its maintenance?

Do You Know?

—that Major A. B. McMullen, Washington, D. C., chief of the airport section of the Department of Commerce, in a recent surprise visit to the municipal airport made the following statements concerning the airport:

1. "It is far superior to airports in other cities of this size."

2. "I have found a better airport, with better runways, buildings and equipment, than 1 expected to find."

3. "It is better maintained and shows better management than most airports of the country.

4. "Your landscaping and beautification features are fine. It helps to build up good will; first, toward the airport, and second, toward flying in general."

5. "As your airport is today, Fort Wayne probably will receive the second highest rating it is possible for the Department of Commerce to give."

HOW THE TAX RATE IS DIVIDED

UNIT	1935	1936	1937	1938
State	.15	.15	.15	.15
County	.545	.46	.393	.37
School City	.95	.93	.91	.89
Poor Relief	.353	.34	.202	.107
Library Fund	.055	.06	.065	.075
Road Bonds	.037	.03	.016	.008
Township and Towns	.005	.005	.006	.006
Total	2.095	1.975	1.742	1.606
CITY				
General Fund	.44	.43	.44	.454
Special Fund	.195	.195	.178	.18
Total	.635	.625	.618	.634
Total Rate	2.73	2.60	2.36	2.24

The economies practiced by the present City Administration under the direction of Mayor Harry W. Baals indicate the possibility of the further reduction of taxes in 1939. City Comptroller and Director of the Budget, Louis F. Crosby, states that this reduction will likely be two or three cents, giving Fort Wayne one of the lowest Civil City tax rates in its history.

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